

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the ~~one or more~~ listed search concepts are popular search concepts and wherein their relative popularity can be used to order the displayed list.

4. canceled

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein initiating the preferred search query comprises selecting one of the terms associated with the search concept that has appeared a greatest number of times within queries stored in the query log.

6-7. canceled

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed by execution of instructions stored on a computer-readable medium.

9. canceled

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising automatically initiating a preferred query associated with at least one of the ~~one or more~~ listed search concepts to provide a set of improved search results.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of improved search results comprises one or more sub-sets of the set of improved search results, each sub-set associated with one of the listed search concepts and having a number of search results proportional to the relative popularity of the listed search concept.

12-13. canceled

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein automatically initiating the preferred search query comprises selecting, for each of the ~~one or more~~ listed search concepts

associated with the preferred query, one of the terms associated with the listed search concept that has appeared a greatest number of times within queries stored in the query log.

15-27 canceled

28. (currently amended) A system comprising:  
a search concept that is a category which represents a clustering of a plurality of terms; and

a server communicatively coupled with a client at which a user generates a query, wherein the server groups the terms into the search concept, examines a query log to determine a number of times that each of the terms appears within queries stored in the query log, calculates a relative popularity for the search concept by adding the number of times that each of the terms appears within queries stored in the query log, and maps the user query to the search concept, whereby the relative popularity is calculated relative to at least one other search concept in a list of search concepts.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the server is a search engine and the client is a web browser.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the server and the client are applications.

31-33 canceled

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising mapping the user query to ~~one or more~~ the at least one other search concept in the list of search concepts.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising displaying a the list of the one or more search concepts.